

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of International Trade
State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)

Who can apply for a cooperative agreement under STEP?

A State agency that has been officially designated by the governor as the sole entity responsible for conducting the State's trade and export activities may apply. The designation letter must accompany the application. The organizational structure of the applicant must reflect an official agency relationship with State government, and the State must provide financial backing and show support for proposed activities.

What does the term 'State,' mean in STEP?

In STEP, the term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa

Can Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) apply for grants under STEP Program?

SBDCs do not meet the criteria of eligible applicants under STEP, and for this reason, cannot apply. However, applicants can propose efforts that include collaborative and sub-contractual relationships with SBDCs that provide for payment of stipends or tuition for, or reimbursements to, STEP Clients for services provided to them by SBDCs.